

# Northwest Suburban Music Teachers Association



## Newsletter

February 15, 2016

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## A LETTER FOR THE PRESIDENT



February 2016

Dear friends and colleagues,

I will be filling in for Robin until she is well enough to return to us..... hopefully, soon! Our thoughts and prayers are with Robin as she recovers. Please feel free to send cards to her - I know that it lifts her spirits that so many people care and express their concern. She is still in room 705 at Lutheran General Hospital.

I'm sure you are busy preparing your students for AIM Performance exams and the Awards Competition - lots to do! Also, keep in mind

## FEBRUARY

Monday, February 15, 2016  
PROGRAM: Kathlyn Sbarboro,  
"Before, During and  
Beyond: Musical Experiences  
for the Young Piano  
Student"  
Rolling Meadows Library  
9:15 A.M. IMT (Independent  
Music Teachers) Chat  
9:45 A.M. Meeting

## MARCH

Monday, March 7, 2016  
9:45 A.M. AIM Judge's  
Meeting for March  
exam. Rolling Meadows  
Library Board Room

Sunday, March 13, 2016  
Deadline: Awards  
Competition

Sunday, March 13, 2016 AIM  
Performance Exams Levels  
3-9. Harper College, Music  
Instruction Center (Building  
P)

Monday, March 21, 2016.  
PROGRAM: Barbara Kreader,  
"Bring Your Studio into  
Today's World"  
Rolling Meadows  
Library 9:15 A.M.  
IMT (Independent Music  
Teachers) Chat 9:45 A.M.

the college and camp scholarships. I hope some of you are thinking about doing something good for yourselves, too - such as attending the MTNA Conference in San Antonio April 2-6. And - I want to encourage you to play in the Teachers' Musicale coming up on April 11th.

How are you all handling the winter blahs in your studios? For me, fall is always very busy, and spring, too - but winter seems to drag on for my students (and me)! I use it to catch up on theory, technic and sight-reading skills, but this year I am trying to put together a little rock/jazz/pop concert to keep my students motivated. My students all seem to love performing, so they're at their best when a recital is just around the corner. I also really enjoyed our Independent Music Teacher meeting in January - I got lots of ideas and think I need to start a Technic Olympics Competition in my studio!

For us teachers, too, sometimes our days to "shine" are few and far between. From lesson to lesson, we don't tend to see huge progress in our students, but - come recital time, I usually am astounded, because my students seem to play better than expected! It must be all that last-minute practice in the hours leading up to the recital!

Last year, I received the best gift of my teaching career. One of my graduating students had to write a college essay - the topic was " Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you? Here are two quotes from that essay:

"I have been in love with the instrument from the time I mindlessly smashed my hands into the keys as a toddler, experimenting with the sour sounds that pierced the air of my living room. I have played piano through family deaths, personal triumphs, and to simply pass time. When I sit at my piano with my hands on the keys, nothing else exists; time stops and I am free to break from the chaos of my everyday life to be alone with my music and myself. "

Teachers' Meeting

March 28, 2016

Deadline: Teachers' Musicale

"Amid the rapid-paced life of a teenager, the piano has given me the opportunity to slow down. Balancing family obligations with co-curricular activities, work and most importantly my studies is no easy task. My piano is my space to press pause and take a deep breath. No words can describe the feeling of being alone and playing a song until your fingers are sore. Playing the piano enriches my life and gives living in a hectic world a bit more harmony."

Reading that essay, I felt that it validated every success and failure over the past 35+ years of teaching - We very often look at scores and medals to evaluate our own success as a teacher. But the gift we are giving our students is so much more than those scores and medals!

This same student contacted me her first week of school, to let me know that she was so excited to have found a piano right in her dorm! I think I was more excited than she was!

Well - As I write this letter, I'm sitting by the fireplace, watching the snowflakes gently fall. BUT - I need to get my boots on and get out there and shovel!

Vice-president,  
Maureen Flood

**ORGAN CONCERT/WORKSHOP**

*Celebrate  
the 20th anniversary  
of the installation of the  
Gabriel Kney Organ, Op.127*

**Bruce Neswick  
Organ Concert**

**Friday, March 11 @ 7:30 pm**

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1234 N. Arlington Heights Road  
Arlington Heights, Illinois**

*"...nothing short of marvelous.  
Neswick's recital was flawless..."*

**Workshop:  
Saturday, March 12 from 9:00 to noon  
Sponsored by the Fox Valley Chapter  
of the American Guild of Organists**



*free-will offering  
no tickets required*



Bruce Neswick, world-famous organist and composer, will present a

concert at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1234 N. Arlington Hts Rd in Arlington Heights on Friday, March 11 at 7:30 pm.

The program includes works by Bach, de Grigny, Stanford and others, as well as hymns for congregational singing, with Mr. Neswick's improvisations. The concert is free and open to the public.

Mr. Neswick will lead an organ workshop at the church on Sat, March 12 from 9 to Noon, sponsored by the Fox Valley American Guild of Organists. Questions?

Contact Barbara Kudirka, Dir. of Worship & Music at [bkudirka@oursaviours.org](mailto:bkudirka@oursaviours.org).

## **FEBRUARY PROGRAM - KATHY SBARBORO**

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We are very fortunate to have member Kathlyn Sbarboro, whose program, "Before, During and Beyond: Musical Experiences for the Young Piano Student" promises to be fun and informative!

Please join us on February 15 at the Rolling Meadows Library for this program!

Kathlyn Sbarboro is the Piano Facilitator for the Continuing Education Community Music Center at Harper College. Ms. Sbarboro teaches both group and private lessons to students of all levels, and oversees all piano performance festivals, recitals, and student placement. Ms. Sbarboro has earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education, and a Master of Arts degree in Piano Pedagogy. She is recognized as a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music by the Music Teacher's National Association, through which she has served as Group Piano Chair, Recital Chair, and Theory Co-Chair at the state and local levels. Ms.

Sbarboro is a registered Music Together® teacher, teaching Music Together® classes in the western suburbs. She also maintains an independent piano studio, and is active in the Chicago area as a clinician and festival/competition judge.

Maureen Flood  
Vice-President, Programs

## **WEST SUBURBAN ISMTA WORKSHOP**

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THE EMOTIONAL  
CONNECTION

CORKY SIEGEL



THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 25, 2016

**Date:**

Thursday, February 25, 2016

**Time:**

Workshop 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Registration begins 8:40 a.m.

**Place:**

Trinity Episcopal Church  
130 N West Street, Wheaton, IL  
At West and Wesley Streets

**Sponsor:**

Joint West Suburban ISMTA  
Local Associations

**Directions:**

Please park on Wesley Street or in the lot behind the church.

**From Roosevelt Rd.**

Turn north on West St., over the tracks to Wesley St.

**From Geneva Rd.**

Go south on Main St. to Wesley and west to West St.

**From I-88**

Exit at Naperville Rd., go north to Roosevelt Rd., west to West St. and north to Wesley St.

# THE EMOTIONAL CONNECTION:

*A new and deep approach to applying  
and understanding dynamics  
presented by the legendary*

## CORKY SIEGEL

Musicians who have used Corky Siegel's techniques have declared that he has radically changed their playing within minutes. He helps musicians of all ages learn how to go beyond the notes on the page and achieve artistic expression. His unique way of teaching dynamics and articulation will transform your teaching and your own music-making.

At this workshop you will learn how to:

- *tap the natural dynamic power in your music*
- *coach your students to take their music to the next level*
- *help your students reach their musical goals quickly and effectively*
- *do the Incredible One-Minute Exercise that will fill your performance with color, dimension, fun, and excitement*

Whether you have beginning, intermediate, or advanced students, this workshop will enhance your teaching. Mr. Siegel will be demonstrating his techniques on the piano, but these principles can be used for any vocal or instrumental music-making!

## ABOUT CORKY SIEGEL

Corky Siegel first appeared on the American music scene in the early 1960's when his ability to provoke stirring emotions through his unique synergy of vocals, keyboards, and electrifying blues harmonica quickly established him as a contemporary among the leading artists of his generation.

Mr. Siegel's partnership in the renowned Siegel-Schwall Band, his performances as soloist with orchestras world-wide, and his collaborations with conductor Seiji Ozawa in bringing a ground-breaking blues-classical sound to national attention are all a reflection of Mr. Siegel's prodigious talent. Mr. Siegel continues to perform as guest soloist with symphony orchestras world-wide, which have included the New York Philharmonic, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Orquestra Metropolitana De Lisboa in Portugal, the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal, the NHK Symphony in Japan, and the Philadelphia Orchestra with Maestro Charles Dutoit.

*"His audiences cheer and stamp their feet, but to performer Corky Siegel, the most important thing about the show isn't that the audience is having a good time, it's that he is having a good time."* - Denver Post, Colorado

SAVE AND SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION EARLY!

**PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT BY FEBRUARY 20, 2016**

Yes, I will attend the workshop on Thursday, February 25, 2016. Make checks payable to the WS ISMTA Joint Fund.

Pre Registration (by Feb. 20, 2016)—Adults \$25 ..... Registration at the door—Adults \$30.00; Students \$5.00

Mail this form and your check (postmarked by Feb. 20, 2016) to address below.

Or email your RSVP and contact information to [sie.piano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sie.piano@sbcglobal.net) and mail your check (by Feb. 20) to address below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Your ISMTA Local Chapter (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
**ISMTA Workshop**  
2095 Colonial Street  
Aurora, IL 60503

## **\$1000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

If you have a high school student graduating this year and majoring in music at a college or university, you are already working on repertoire for their audition for school. Don't forget about our \$1000 scholarship, which goes to 1 student, and has helped the students with their extra fees throughout the school year. It is for 1 year only, \$500 for the fall semester & \$500 for the spring semester if they kept their grades up in music classes the first semester. Parents have been very appreciative in regards to this scholarship. Complete rules and enrollment form are on our website. Deadline is April 15. If you have any questions, please call or send an email.

Pat Borchardt

## **HOSPITALITY**

I sent a card to Cathy Albergo due to her cardiac arrest. Cathy did not have to have open heart surgery, and was fortunate to be in a situation where she got help pretty quickly. She had to be revived. The

blockage was taken care of with a stent, so with multiple medications Cathy is going to be OK, which cheers us all, I know. She had two stents put in.

Also, a sympathy card was sent to Phil Samuels due to the loss of his mother, Lyda Samuels. NWSMTA sent a \$25 check in Lyda Samuels memory to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, 1500 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Janice Wilkans  
Hospitality Chair

## **GRANQUIST MUSIC COMPETITION**

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Registration has begun for the Granquist Music Competition, the largest music competition in the State of Illinois. This year's event will be held Saturday, June 25, 2016 at Geneva Community High School, 416 McKinley Avenue. Teachers are encouraged to enroll students as early as possible. Online entry deadline is May 25 and mailed applications must be postmarked by May 23. Both deadlines will be strictly enforced.

This is the 46th year of the competition established in 1970 by music educator Herb Granquist. We are pleased that the Granquist family will once again be coordinating the competition. All contestants will be classified by instrument, age and years of instruction. Solos, duets and ensembles are all encouraged to register. There are three levels of competition-Olympic, Concert and Performance.

To view the brochure, rules and regulations, download a registration form or register online, visit <http://genevachamber.com/granquist/>. To receive an application by mail or for payment assistance, please call the Geneva Chamber of Commerce at 630-232-6060. The competition is presented as part of Swedish Days Festival supported by Northwestern Medicine and hosted by the Geneva Chamber of

Commerce.

Technical Musical Questions related to the competition should be directed to:

\*email: [granquistmusic@genevachamber.com](mailto:granquistmusic@genevachamber.com)

\*phone: 630-346-2605

## AWARDS COMPETITION

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We are looking forward to the Awards Competition on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at Harper College. The deadline is March 16. Please review the eligibility requirements, rules, repertoire and other details, and plan on entering your students in this competition!

- The Awards Competition Committee

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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I was really inspired by the comments made by Maureen's student. As teachers we deepen the skills of our students to see beyond the black dots on the page, to feel and portray the music to their audience. But as Maureen's student points out, much of what she values about her life with music is what she does when she is alone. Every path of knowledge has something to offer to our experience of being alive. Enlightening a student or our ourselves, personally, teaches us to navigate new ways to make the ordinary extraordinary.

Teaching is like putting a drop of ink in a cup of water. It changes the

color of the entire cup. As we add more drops and stir the water, we change what previously existed. We listen and reflect back to the student what has come from them. I encourage my students to avoid extra movement as they are playing. The movement blocks what they are trying to bring out. I suggest they sit still and feel.

Ultimately, we want to guide our students to their center, so they can become the teacher. How blessed to be able to accompany them on their journey.

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Northwest Suburban Music Teachers Association

Robin Meredith-Kramer, President

Maureen Flood, Website

Deborah Lynch, Newsletter